

Testimony of Leah Sterry DO
Pediatrician at Pediatric Associates of Western Connecticut
to the Public Health Committee
Senate Bill 213- An Act Allowing Medical Assistants to Administer
Vaccines

Senator Abrams, Representative Steinberg and members of the Public Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 213- *An Act Allowing Medical Assistants to Administer Vaccines*.

My name is Dr. Leah Sterry and I am a pediatrician practicing in Danbury. My practice has provided care for the children in Danbury and surrounding areas for over 30 years.

Primary care pediatricians have been on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic since the beginning. Pediatricians are a trusted resource for families, and as such, we are often the first stop when parents have questions about their child and COVID-19. Over the course of the past two years, we have fielded countless calls from concerned parents and provided COVID-19 testing and vaccinations, all while keeping up with the typical well-child visits and caring for sick patients.

While these past two years have been challenging for our practices, SB 213 offers an opportunity to alleviate some of the staffing and capacity challenges of community practices across the state. We have struggled to find enough nurses to keep our practice running smoothly, our current nurses are over worked. By allowing MA's to give vaccines, we can open job openings to MAs and that could allow the nurses to focus on their leadership roles and be less stressed. Almost every other state allows MAs to give vaccines.

Thank you for your consideration of this position. Leah Sterry

Sent from my iPhone